(b) whether there is any mechanism to cross check the reported arrests with the families of such persons;

(c) whether any special drive has been launched to meet the twin objective of getting such Indians back to India and simultaneously ensuring that prospectively such a situation is avoided; and

(d) whether co-operation of NGOs has been sought in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House at the earliest possible.

(b) As soon as arrest of a person, believed to be an Indian national, is reported to the concerned Indian Mission abroad, the Mission takes steps to establish his Indian nationality by verifying the particulars on the Passport Information Services on Net (PISON). Cases, in which identity cannot be established in the above manner, are referred to the concerned State Governments in India for verification. The process of verification involves, *inter alia,* cross-checking with the concerned families.

(c) and (d) The Mission seek consular access upon being informed of the detention of an Indian national. They also render necessary assistance, as required, by interacting with the concerned families in India, requesting for speedy trials, providing advice/guidance in legal and other matters, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails, seeking remission of sentence and facilitating repatriation to India on their eventual release. Special drives have been mounted by Indian Missions to issue travel documents during periods of Amnesty, for illegal migrants, declared by some countries in Europe and the Gulf region.

Information on steps being taken within the country to prevent illegal migration, including through co-operation of NGOs, is being collected from the concerned Ministries/Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Depiction of Hindu Gods

3302. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the June'07 issue of popular US magazine depicted Hindu God Ganesha holding an alcoholic beverage in each hand and Hanuman in obscure pose which caused ire of many Hindus in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any corrective measures; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government are aware that a US magazine "Stuff", published by Dennis Publishing Limited, featured, in its June 2007 edition, images of Hindu Gods that were offensive. Our Consulate in New York was directed to take up the issue with the publishers and have informed us that the magazine had reportedly gone out of circulation.